



The President's Daily Brief

9 July 1970

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

9 July 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

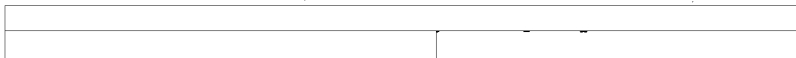
Communist military activity in Cambodia slackened yesterday. (Page 1)

A large number of Communist troops have been detected in southern Laos. (Page 2)



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The West German cabinet has completed a two-day review of domestic and foreign policies. (Page 5)



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CAMBODIA

Both Kompong Thom and Siem Reap cities received enemy mortar and small arms fire yesterday, but no follow-on ground attacks developed. The situation at Saang, south of Phnom Penh, appears to have stabilized, with the embattled district town still in government hands.

A new threat appears to be developing against Svay Rieng town in southeastern Cambodia. Up to 3,000 Communist troops are reported to be maneuvering near this provincial capital, which has so far escaped serious attack. A South Vietnamese task force along Route 1 was attacked less than 15 miles from the city on 7 July..

As the Communists begin to adjust to the losses suffered during allied cross-border operations in Svay Rieng Province, they will probably bring additional pressure to bear on the remaining South Vietnamese and Cambodian forces there.

Phnom Penh is planning to take additional measures to ease enemy pressure against Kompong Thom city. Six Cambodian Army battalions will be shipped into the city on 9 or 10 July via the Tonle Sap and Stung Sen rivers. These reinforcements may be in for trouble, as intercepted Cambodian messages indicate that the Stung Sen is under Communist control.

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NORTH VIETNAM

Unusual and as yet unexplained Communist troop movements have been detected in southern Laos.

[redacted] six
battalion-sized groups containing at least 3,000
troops were in that area, [redacted] al-
together there are 15 groups, containing possibly
as many as 8,000 men, in the vicinity.

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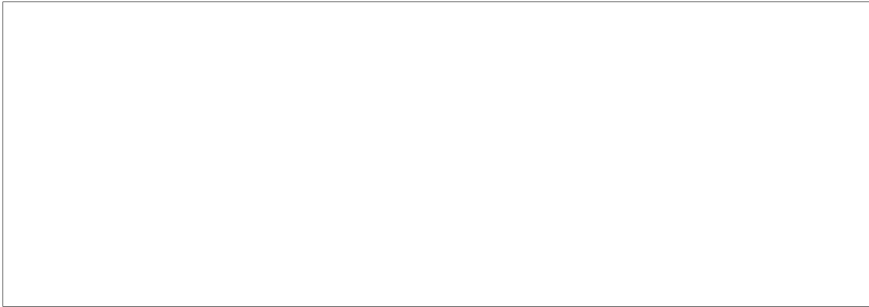
*There is no clear indication of the origin
or destination of these troops, or even
in which direction they are presently
headed. They could be bound for the
fighting in Cambodia, South Vietnam, or
southern Laos. On the other hand, [redacted]
[redacted] that they might
be Communist forces being pulled out of
South Vietnam.*

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THAILAND-CAMBODIA



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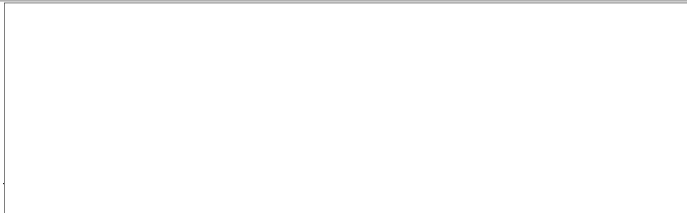


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EGYPT-USSR-US



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WEST GERMANY

We are seeing signs of a more cautious approach to Chancellor Brandt's Ostpolitik, following his party's reverses in last month's state elections.

A two-day cabinet review of foreign and domestic policy this week failed to produce a date for resuming the postponed negotiations with Moscow on a nonaggression pact. Brandt also told newsmen yesterday that he favors another meeting with East German Premier Stoph only if there is a clear indication that it would lead to improved relations.

A final decision on resuming talks with Moscow does not now appear likely until the end of the month when Foreign Minister Scheel is to present his formal recommendations to the cabinet. Scheel says the government will invite all parties in the Bundestag--including the opposition Christian Democrats (CDU)--to name foreign affairs experts to accompany his delegation to Moscow as observers.

Scheel undoubtedly hopes such a gesture will serve either to dampen the CDU's strong criticism of Ostpolitik or expose them as unreasonable obstructionists.

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The Soviets have warned through an authoritative article in Izvestia that they would accept no major changes in the existing draft.

In another bid to take the heat out of opposition attacks, the cabinet also decided on a counterinflationary program, including tax increases. This was prompted by an awareness that public concern over inflation played a significant part in the success scored by the CDU in the state elections.

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USSR

Recent satellite photography shows four new groups of SS-9 ICBM silos under construction as well as two new groups of silos for the SS-13. Construction began on all six groups this spring although initial surveying for one of the SS-9 groups was accomplished in the fall of 1969.

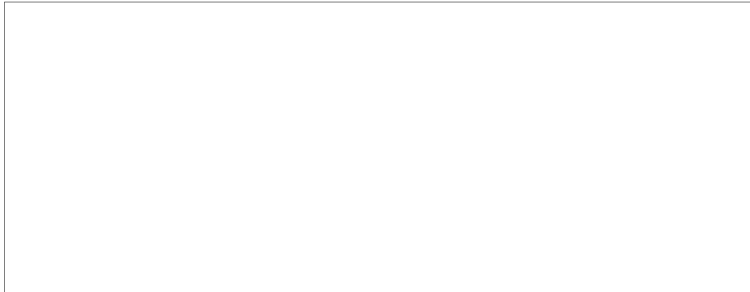


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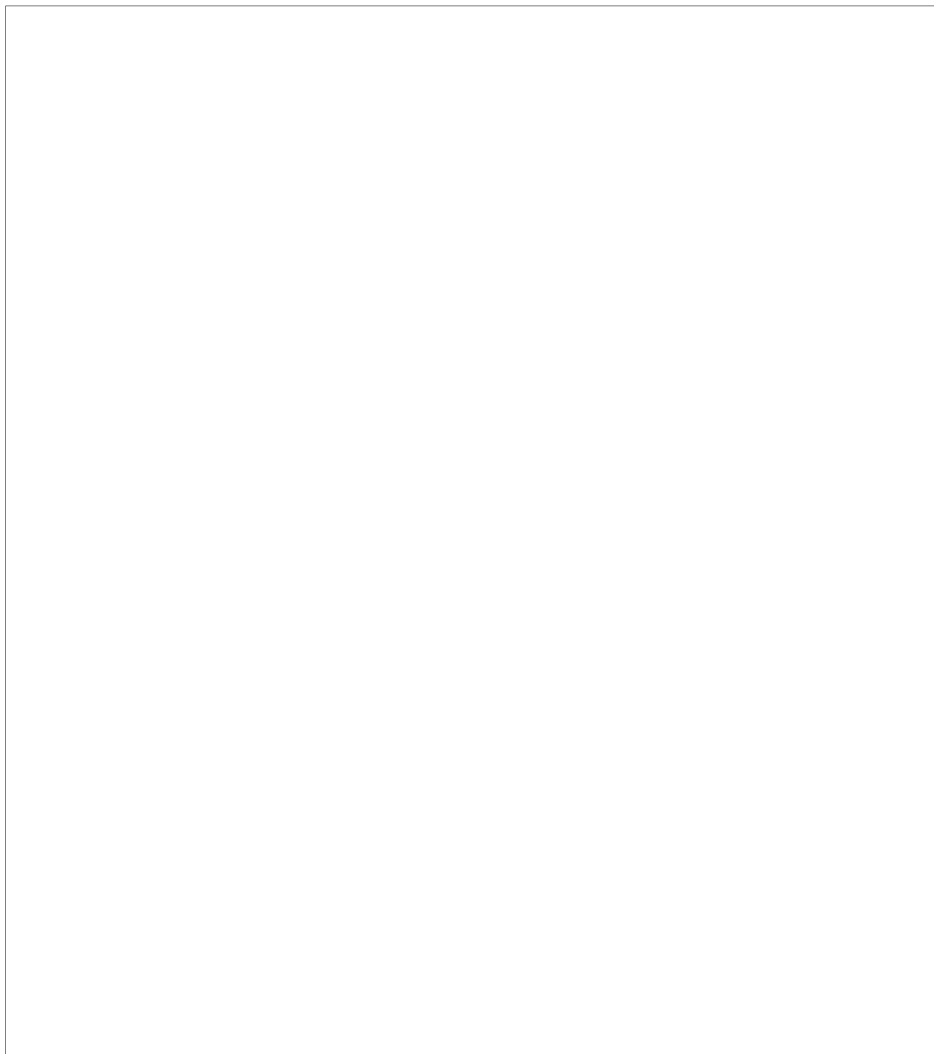
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NOTES

USSR: [REDACTED]

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Bolivia: Troops in La Paz were placed on alert yesterday, as President Ovando grappled with the problem of ousting and exiling the commander of his armed forces, General Torres, without bringing down his own government. The city abounded with rumors of a coup after Torres decided to fight his ouster.

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